

# Painting Problems

All paints, solvents, and adhesives contain chemicals that are harmful to wildlife and humans. That is why proper handling and disposal of these products is so important.

Toxic chemicals from liquid, solid products, cleaning residues or rags may enter waterways via storm drains.

It is especially important not to clean brushes in an area where paint residue can flow to a street, gutter or storm drain. Once paint residue enters the storm drain system, it flows directly to Florida's various waterways.

As a contractor, site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, *you may be held responsible for the environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.*

## Solutions

**Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering waterways through the storm drain system.**



# Stormwater BMPs: Solutions for Painting Problems

## General Business Practices

**Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the street, gutter and storm drains.** Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes. When thoroughly dry, used brushes, rags, drop cloths and empty paint cans (lids off) may be disposed of as trash.

**Use water-based paints** instead of oil-based paints. Look for the words "Latex" or "Clean up with water" on the label.

**Do not use paints over 15 years old.** They may contain toxic levels of lead.



**Reuse paint thinner.** Set used thinner aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles. Then pour off clear liquid for future use. Wrap the residue in newspaper and dispose of it in the trash.

## Paint Removal

**Chemical paint stripping residue is a hazardous waste.** Chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin are hazardous wastes. Dry sweep and call for disposal information.

Paint chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting may be swept up and disposed of as trash.

When stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water, block storm drains. Wash water onto a dirt area. Check with the local wastewater treatment authority to find out if you can collect (mop or vacuum) building cleaning water and drain it to the sewer.

## Paint Cleanup

Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain.

For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and rinse in the sink.

For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible. Clean them with thinner and then, filter and reuse the thinner or solvent.

## Recycle or Reuse Leftover Paints

Reuse leftover paint for touch-ups or donate it to local graffiti paint-out programs.



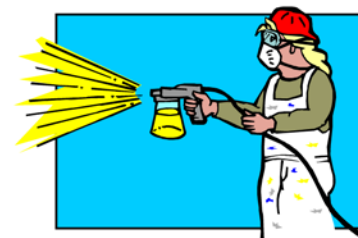
Recycle or use up excess paint.

## Employee & Client Education

Employees can help prevent pollution when you include *Pointless Personal Pollution* training in employee orientation and reviews. Promote these Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Storage containers for paints and supplies should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.

Place materials inside rigid, durable, watertight containers with tight fitting covers.



Store materials inside a building or build a covered area that is paved and designed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.

Educate your employees. Include water quality training in new employee orientations and conduct annual review sessions.

Post BMPs where employees and clients can see them. Showing customers you protect Florida's waterways is good public relations.



## Contacts



To report a spill, learn about waste disposal or report illegal dumping please contact your local public works department.

*KY Transportation Cabinet adapted work by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.*